

Madam Speaker, on December 5, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1130. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on November 14, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1103. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on October 31, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 1023. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on October 22, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall Nos. 983–985. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 983; "aye" on rollcall No. 984; and "aye" on rollcall No. 985.

Madam Speaker, on June 13, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 465. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

Madam Speaker, on March 9, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 133. Had I voted, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on February 12, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall Nos. 93–94. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 93; and "aye" on rollcall No. 94.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House on Thursday, February 7, 2008, attending a funeral in Las Vegas. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way:

On rollcall vote #42, H.R. 5140, the Economic Stimulus bill, "yea."

On rollcall vote #41, H. Res. 947, Congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election, "yea."

On rollcall vote #40, H.R. 4137 the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, "yea."

On rollcall vote #39, H.R. 4137 On Motion to Recommit, "yea."

On rollcall vote #38, H.R. 4137 On Mr. Davis of Illinois Amendment, "nay."

On rollcall vote #37, H.R. 4137 On Mr. Petri of Wisconsin Amendment #5, "yea."

On rollcall vote #36, H.R. 4137 On Mr. Petri of Wisconsin Amendment #4, "yea."

On rollcall vote #35, H.R. 4848 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended P To extend for one year parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits, and for other purposes, "yea."

On rollcall vote #34, H. Con. Res. 283 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended P Calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya, "yea."

On rollcall vote #33, H. Res. 956 On Agreeing to the Resolution P Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes, "nay."

On rollcall vote #32, H. Res. 956 On Ordering the Previous Question P Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes, "nay."

H.R. 5264 EXTENDS SUCCESSFUL PREFERENCE PROGRAMS WITH ANDEAN, CARIBBEAN, AND GSP NATIONS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer a few words on H.R. 5264, a bill that I introduced to provide a long-term extension of three trade preference programs scheduled to expire this year. This bill would extend until September 30, 2010 the Andean trade preferences (ATPA) that are due to expire on February 29, preferences for the Caribbean Basin (CBI) countries—which expire on September 30—and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which expires on December 31. H.R. 5264 also addresses a number of problems with the textile provisions of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the competitive need limitation (CNL) waiver provisions of GSP.

These preference programs have been a centerpiece of U.S. efforts to spread the benefits of globalization to the world's poor and developing countries. They have created tens of thousands of jobs—jobs that are likely to be lost to countries like China if the programs are not renewed—and have created critical economic opportunities for workers and businesses in the United States. These programs have also fostered key U.S. foreign policy goals, including U.S. counternarcotic efforts, and empowered the agents of democracy and reform abroad.

Extension beyond 2010 would have been ideal to provide the necessary predictability and stability for the Andean, Caribbean, and GSP programs. However, I have included the shorter extension in this bill to accommodate the range of opinions on the issue of renewal. In the coming days, I will work with my colleagues to harness the strong bipartisan support that I believe exists to extend and improve these critical trade preference programs.

Finally, a 2-year renewal of these programs at this time should send a clear signal to negotiators in the World Trade Organization Doha Round negotiations that the U.S. commitment to trade and development remains unwavering and substantial. This element of the Round is fundamental, even as the United States presses for key goals in agriculture, far reaching commitments on tariff and non-tariff barriers with respect to manufactured goods, services and strong outcomes in other areas, including the so-called Rules negotiations.

IN HONOR OF DAN COLEGROVE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cleveland police Sergeant Dan Colegrove for more than 28 years of exemplary service in the Cleveland Police Department.

Dan served in a number of capacities during his time with the police. He began his career on October 29, 1979, in the fourth district, and

then spent time on the Strike Force and the Detective Bureau from 1984 to 1989. He was then assigned to the Cleveland Police Mounted Unit until 1999, when he moved to the Fugitive Unit. In June 2000, he was promoted to sergeant and served his remaining time with a stint in the fifth district and the Detective Bureau until his retirement on December 7, 2007.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dan Colegrove for his dedication to his community of West Cleveland.

COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4137) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the College Opportunity and Affordability Act (H.R. 4137), a bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act's programs.

I thank Chairman MILLER, Representative McKEON and their staff for their hard work on this reauthorization bill. I am very pleased that the Education and Labor Committee voted unanimously to favorably refer this bill to the full House for consideration. It is a testament to the fact that bipartisan work, though difficult, pays off with a better final product. This bill makes substantive changes that help future college students and our Nation's economy.

Several provisions that I authored were included in the College Opportunity and Affordability Act. For example, the bill includes provisions of the Higher Education Sustainability Act, a bill that I introduced with Rep. BLUMENAUER to establish a competitive grant program to encourage colleges and universities to develop, implement and evaluate their sustainability practices and academic programs. I appreciate the efforts of Representatives INSLEE and BLUMENAUER to improve upon the bill's provisions by requiring that the Secretary of Education consult with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency when awarding sustainability grants. This provision was included in the Manager's Amendment.

In addition, the bill includes the Robert C. Byrd American Competitiveness program, which has provisions that Representatives WOLF, HOLT and I developed in the 109th Congress. For example, it awards scholarships to students who are enrolled in studies in physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, or engineering. Also, through the Math and Science Incentive program, the Secretary may waive the interest on Federal student loans for students pursuing STEM teaching or professional careers. In conference, I certainly hope Senator BYRD is amenable to making these important updates to the Byrd Scholarship program.

Finally, the bill includes my Independent Study of Distance Education Act, which requires the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of distance education, as compared to traditional, campus-based education.